



PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

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**TAMPA MAN CONVICTED IN
MARIJUANA GROW HOUSE CONSPIRACY**

Tampa, Florida - A jury in U.S. District Court, today found Herbert Ferrell, Jr., guilty of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and distribution of 1000 or more of marijuana plants. Ferrell faces a minimum mandatory sentence of 10 years' imprisonment up to a maximum of life imprisonment; a \$4 million fine; and at least five (5) years supervised release. The sentencing hearing is scheduled for December 7, 2006.

Ferrell was indicted along with Rigo Same, Rigoberto Same, Jr., Yasmany Same, Mynor Bonilla, Delvys Castellon, Giovanni Caballero, Jose Gonzalez, Jose Diaz, Rocco Sarely, and Irisleidy Morales on December 15, 2005. Ferrell was the only defendant to proceed to trial; the ten other defendants pled guilty.

According to testimony and evidence at trial, Herbert Ferrell, Jr., and his co-conspirators purchased residential homes throughout the greater Tampa Bay area and converted those homes in to marijuana cultivation facilities. During the investigation, the Drug Enforcement Administration maintained one of the homes, located at 18970 Crooked

Lane, Lutz, Florida, as an undercover operation. According to court documents, the following homes were all operated as marijuana grow houses:

13003 Whisper Bay Place, Tampa, Florida;
12708 Box Drive, Hudson, Florida;
18970 Crooked Lane, Lutz, Florida;
1510 S. Habana Avenue, Tampa, Florida;
17817 Deerfield Drive, Lutz, Florida;
10124 Woodsong Way, Tampa, Florida;
2809 Safe Harbour Drive, Tampa, Florida;
3937 Versailles Drive, Tampa, Florida; and
9670 River Road, Spring Hill, Florida

The case was investigated by Drug Enforcement Administration and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Anthony E. Porcelli.